educational institutions including medical and professional for the OBCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for providing 27% reservation to OBCs in the Educational Institutions including medical and professional institutions is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Workshop on 'Child Abuse'**

1295. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Workshop on "Child Abuse—a growing menace" was organised by the Indian Medical Association in New Delhi, on April 14, 1998;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made at the workshop; and

(c) what further steps have been and are being taken to curb the menace, including prostitution of girl child and their sexual abuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Artificial Limbs by NGOs**

1296. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether providing artificial limbs to the handicapped has become a big business for voluntary organisations and a substantial portion of Rs. 130 crores disbursed as aid to such NGOs by his Ministry is used by them either to pay salaries or increase capital assets, though many of NGOs are profit earning;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of Government agencies or officials to detect such irregularities; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances is aimed to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical social and psychological rehabilitation. Money under the Scheme is released to implementing agencies who fulfill the requirements of the scheme, including the requisite recommendation of the concerned State Govts., for the purposes approved under the scheme.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Promotion of Girls' Education in Scheduled Areas**

1297. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be please to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any special scheme for the promotion of girls' education in the country particularly in the scheduled areas;

(b) if so, since when and the details of such special programmes;

(c) whether residential schools have been set up and drop out rate has been checked with the implementation of such schemes; and

(d) if so, to what extent since the inception of such special schemes or programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme of construction of girls hostel for ST girl students and construction of girls hostel for SC girl students were launched during Third Five Year Plan which are in operation in the country including the States having Scheduled areas namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Under the Schemes, grant is released to the State Govts. on 50:50 sharing basis and to the UT Admns. on 100% basis for construction of hostels for SC/ST girl students.

The scheme of educational complex was launched during 1992-93 in 48 identified districts having less than 2% literacy amongst tribal women. The list of districts in the States having scheduled areas covered under the scheme is at Annexure. Under the Scheme, 100% grants is given to the NGOs for establishment and running the educational complex.

Under the scheme of Special Educational Development Programme for SC girls launched in 1996-97, assistance is provided for setting up of Residential Schools in 48 districts having less than 2% literacy amongst SC women to the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The residential schools have been set up under various schemes and there is marked decrease in drop out rate with the implementation of such schemes.

**Rehabilitation/Training of Scavenger Families**

1298. MISS SAROJ KHPARDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified all the scavenger families in all the districts of Maharashtra for rehabilitation and training;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether all such families have been liberated from inhuman practice of scavenging and rehabilitated;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and number of families yet to be rehabilitated; and

(e) the steps being taken to rehabilitate all such families in the States?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) District-wise details are given in Statement, *(see* below).

(c) 15725 families have been financed for self-employment and 8977 candidates belonging to scavenging families have been trained and are being helped for self-employment.

(d) The applications received from scavenger families and their dependents for self-employment are forwarded to the banks for sanction. The financing depends on the number of cases sanctioned by the bank. At present 1299 cases are being examined by the banks. Efforts are being made to speed up the work of rehabilitation of scavenger families.

(e) 6354 families are yet to be rehabilitated and efforts are being made to finance all the families in the stipulated period through Nationalised banks.